

The Cristina Enea Park, San Sebastián City Council

The Cristina Enea Park was originally constructed as a private park in the 1890s, but came to be donated to the city of San Sebastián by the Duke of Mandas. Since 1995, the city council has been involved in the conservation, protection and management of this historic, romantic park. These efforts form a part of the wider Green Plan project for the whole city, which seeks to restore and restructure the landscape of the area as an essential part of San Sebastián's landscape planning. During its long history, the park had suffered a gradual decline. Under the guidance of objectives set by the municipality, the project restored the park's landscape and pathways as well as its flora and fauna whilst maintaining and reinforcing the essential characteristics of the town. Some of the steps taken include: preventing soil erosion, reconstructing deteriorating paths, providing adequate rainwater and sanitary systems, restoring deteriorating buildings and stopping the uncontrolled spread of vegetation. The park combines sustainable policies with urban quality and encourages biodiversity within the urban area. The value of the project is twofold: it preserves both the park's cultural and natural heritage, and it protects the park both as a romantic setting and a place of biodiversity.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe conferred a special mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention for the 1st Session of the Award 2008-2009 on the organisers of the project, considering that it responds to the four criteria for the award as regards sustainable territorial development, exemplariness, public participation and awareness-raising, and acknowledging the excellent results of the long-term planning carried out with a view to the qualitative promotion of the urban landscape whilst bearing in mind socio-cultural elements.